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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (9/08): INTERNAL DIVISION COLORS
ALL PALESTINIAN PUBLIC DISCOURSE

Main Stories:

With photos of Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmud Abbas and Jordanian King Abdullah II, the three dailies lead with front page reports on the two leaders' meeting in Jordan on September 7. According to a statement made by Jordanian royal protocol, Abbas and Abdullah II discussed efforts being made to push forward Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. King Abdullah confirmed Jordan's support to the PA's efforts to solve all final status issues, reporting notes. Following their meeting, Abbas told press that he will meet with Arab foreign ministers on September 8 in Cairo to discuss latest negotiations with Israel. All front pages highlight news that Israel's police have recommended that Israeli Premier Olmert be indicted on a series of corruption charges. All dailies front-page a Wafa report that Palestinian Authority (PA) Premier Fayyad noted that the European Parliament has discussed Palestinian prisoner issues for the first time, according to a statement made by Fayyad during a September 7 Ramallah area iftar held in honor of released Palestinian prisoners. Fayyad confirmed that the prisoners' cause will not be resolved until all prisoners are released without restrictions or pre-conditions. In related coverage citing DPA and Ma'an news agencies, the three dailies report that Hamas denied reports that Egypt's mediation role regarding Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit has changed. Hamas spokesman Ismail Radwan confirmed that, "reports on moving Shalit's case from Egypt to other Arab parties are inaccurate and untrue," adding, "Egypt is still mediating the prisoners' exchange deal with Israel."

Al-Suds' front page highlights that Israel's government on September 6 postponed discussion on legislation that would pay Jewish settlers to leave their homes in the West Bank, as part of a future peace agreement with the Palestinians. The paper cites news agencies and

Israeli army radio.

The Gaza-Egypt Rafah crossing point will be open for two additional days this week, according to Al Qud's front page. Official Palestinian sources explain that the opening will alleviate, "the hardship of the sick, citizens, and students in the Gaza Strip."

Weekend stories

Sunday, September 7, 2008

Large photos of Palestinian Authority President Mahmud Abbas and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak introduced front page reporting in all three dailies about the September 6 meeting of the two presidents in Cairo. During their meeting, Abbas reportedly told Mubarak that chances of reaching peace with Israel by the end of 2008 look slim. Abbas was quoted as saying, "Jerusalem and the right of return are inalienable Palestinian rights." Regarding Egyptian mediation efforts to heal the inter-Palestinian rift, Abbas expressed appreciation for Egypt's supportive stance, saying that Egypt's continued efforts towards the resumption of an inter-Palestinian reconciliation dialogue will soon bear fruit. The front pages cited news agency reports about the September 6 meeting between Palestinian Authority lead negotiator Ahmad Quray and former U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross. Quray briefed Ross on latest developments in the Palestinian Territories, highlighting the issues of increasing Israeli military "invasions" into the West Bank and random arrests, and the construction of settlements and "facts on the ground" in Jerusalem that serve to, "wrest the city from the

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hands of Palestinians." Quray affirmed to press after the meeting that the way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region is clear: Through an end to the occupation, a halt in settlement building and the construction of the separation wall, and recognition of a Palestinian stake in Jerusalem. He added that peace can be quickly realized and that Palestinian leadership is "clinging" to President Bush's vision of a two state solution. Finally, Quray reaffirmed the commitment of the Palestinian leadership to the Arab peace initiative and related international resolutions.

Citing DPA, all dailies' front pages reported that Deputy Chief of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Mr. Abdul Rahim Maluh said, in an interview with the London-based newspaper, Al-Hayat Al-Londoniyya, published on September 6, that the only exit from the current Palestinian crisis is fixing a date for holding early Palestinian presidential and parliamentary elections. Al-Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida highlighted on their front pages a new poll conducted by Near East Consulting conducted between August 29 and 31. According to the poll, 72% of Palestinian respondents do not expect reunification between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip before the end of 2008; 79% support the formation of a national unity government to help solve the internal Palestinian crisis; 56% support the involvement of Arab security forces in the Gaza Strip; 70% are against confederation with Jordan; 78% trust Palestinian Authority President Mahmud Abbas; 41% support Fatah; 70% support signing a peace agreement with Israel; 58% want Hamas to change its stance regarding the elimination of Israel; 86% suffer from frustration.

Saturday, September 6, 2008

Citing Wafa, the three dailies led with front page news on about Palestinian Authority President Mahmud Abbas' speech at the Ambrosetti Forum in Italy on September 5. President Abbas said that the siege and sanctions imposed on Gaza will cause a human disaster.

In related coverage on front pages, the three dailies cited a Reuters' report about Abbas' doubts about the possibility of reaching a comprehensive peace agreement with Israel by the end of this year.

With large photos on their front pages, the three dailies reported that tens of thousands of worshipers performed the first Friday prayer during the holy month of Ramadan on September 5 at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. According to reports, Israeli authorities imposed strict procedures and prevented West Bankers under the age

of 45 from reaching Jerusalem to perform the Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Al-Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida cited news agency reports about the historic visit of US Secretary of State Rice to Libya on September 5 and her meeting with its leader Muammar Qadhafi. According to coverage, the White House said Rice's visit marked a "new chapter" and that cooperation could expand in the areas of education and culture, commerce, science and technology, security and human rights.

BLOCK QUOTES:

¶1. Independent Al-Quds editorialized in "We are not in Need of More Division," (9/8): "Once again, division in the Palestinian arena has resurfaced in the expression of political positions related to the teachers' strike in the Gaza Strip. This is, of course, not a political issue because the teachers' demands are clear and not related to the political conflict in the Palestinian arena..."

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political powers including, Fatah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Presidency, Dr. Fayyad Government and the former government of the Gaza Strip, should be reminded that it is everyone's duty to work on solving the teachers' problems and to work on ending internal division..."

¶2. Independent Al-Ayyam runs an editorial by daily columnist Samih Shbayb entitled, "The Internal Conflict Crisis" (9/08): "Efforts made in Cairo to heal inter-Palestinian division seem absurd. They are incapable of identifying the correct party that is hindering the process and the role of that party in continuing its control of the Gaza Strip through military force. The suggested solutions seem ridiculous and impossible to implement...which way will Palestinian-Palestinian dialogue turn after Ramadan, and will things be left [hanging] because of an open agenda, awaiting the future international and regional developments?!"